

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK CIVIL AVIATION TALKS

1. DEPT. OFFICER (ACHILLES) DISCUSSED STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MINISTER (BRIDGES) AND CIVIL AIR ATTACHE (GORDON-CUMMING) OF BRITISH EMBASSY ON JUNE 8. ON THE BASIS OF DAILY REPORTS OF NEGOTIATING SESSIONS FROM LONDON AND COPIES OF ALL RENEGOTIATION DOCUMENTS, EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES APPEAR CONVINCED THAT NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED WITHOUT SERIOUS CONFRONTATION. WHILE BRIDGES WILL TRAVEL TO LONDON NEXT WEEK, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF TALKS, TRIP REALLY FOR PERSONAL BUSINESS AND OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON.

2. EMBASSY REPS EXPRESSED MYSTIFICATION OVER UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S JUNE 3 DEMARCHE ON TALKS, CITING GOOD RELATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMB. BOYD AND SHOVELTON AND AMB. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOYD'S APPARENT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DEMARCHE. DEPT. OFFICER SAID THAT DEMARCHE HAD BEEN MADE ON THE BASIS OF REPORTING FROM LONDON ON STATUS OF TALKS AND SUGGESTED THAT BRITISH SHOULD READ FROM EVENT THE STRONG INTEREST AND CONCERN FELT IN WASHINGTON ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF TALKS; TWENTY-TWO MINUTE CALL FROM PRESIDENT HAD ILLUSTRATED THAT POINT. ANY APPARENT UNCERTAINTY ABOUT DEMARCHE IN LONDON MERELY A

PROBLEM OF CONFRONTATION.

3. DEPT. OFFICER SAID THAT IT CLEAR THAT BRITISH NEGOTIATING STRATEGY IS TO DRAG TALKS OUT TO 21ST OR BEYOND IN HOPES OF WRINGING FURTHER CONCESSIONS FROM US SIDE. ON US SIDE FEELING UNANIMOUS THAT IF AGREEMENT NOT REACHED BY 21ST ONLY RESPONSES US COULD MAKE ARE TERMINATION AIR SERVICES OR AGREE TO ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF STATUS QUO. US AIM DURING WEEK OF MAY 30 HAD BEEN TO PRESSURE UK SIDE TO MAKE CLEAR ITS BOTTOM LINE DEMANDS SO THAT ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF NEW AGREEMENT (WHICH UKCAA HAD SAID BOTH SIDES NOW IN A POSITION TO AGREE ON "IN 15 MINUTES") COULD BE REACHED. US HOPED THEREBY TO REDUCE COSTS BEING INCURRED BY US AIRLINES NOW IN ACTIVE PREPARATION FOR TERMINATION OF SERVICES.

4. EMBASSY REPS IMMEDIATELY AND STRONGLY RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF UK SIDE ACCEPTING YEAR'S EXTENSION OF THE STATUS QUO. THEY PRESSED QUESTION OF WHY US FELT IT HAD TO DROP "ITS ATOMIC BOMB" IMMEDIATELY ON JUNE 21 BEFORE ANY UNILATERAL ACTION TAKEN BY UK SIDE TO RESTRICT US AIR SERVICES. WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUT AGREEMENT AND NOT ACT UNTIL, AND IF, UK TOOK SUCH ACTION.

5. IN REPLY, DEPT. OFFICER WENT THROUGH USUAL REASONS WHY US CONSTRAINED BY LOGIC OF SITUATION TO TERMINATING SERVICE ON 21ST IF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IS NOT REACHED AND NOTED THAT UK PROBLEM WOULD APPEAR TO BE: 1) TO EVALUATE WHETHER US SERIOUS ABOUT TERMINATION 2) DECIDE WHETHER UK READY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCEPT PROBLEMS IMPLICIT IN TERMINATION AND 3) IF NOT, FOCUS ON WHY IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO SETTLE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF NEW AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE RATHER THAN DRAGGING PROCESS OUT TO LAST MINUTE.

6. IN DISCUSSION OF CHARTER LINKAGE QUESTION EMBASSY REPS DID NOT REFLECT ANY NECESSARY STRONG UK AVERSION TO PROVISIONAL SIGNING OF AGREEMENT, BUT APPEARED CONCERNED INSTEAD ABOUT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN STIPULATION. THEY WERE SUSPICIOUS THAT US SIDE HAD BEEN TRYING TO USE CONCORDE ISSUE TO FORCE ACCEPTANCE OF "COUNTRY OF ORIGIN" PRINCIPLE TO SATISFY NACA. DEPT. OFFICER EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE "COUNTRY OF ORIGIN" MAY NOT BE A CONDITION ON WHICH US WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST AS PART OF CHARTER LINKAGE ARTICLE IN THE AGREEMENT, EMBASSY REPS SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO LONDON THAT US WOULD INSIST ON PRINCIPLE OF CHARTER LINKAGE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: - THERE ARE ALREADY "SENIOR" OFFICIALS IN US GOVERNMENT WHO BELIEVE US NEGOTIATORS HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN ACCEPTING RESTRICTIONIST UK DEMANDS; THE POSSIBILITY

OF A MORE LIBERAL CHARTER AGREEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO
CALM THIS CONCERN.

- BECAUSE FINAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE MORE RESTRICTIONIST THAN
BERMUDA AGREEMENT, LINKAGE TO MORE LIBERAL CHARTER REGIME
WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR PRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES TO THIRD
COUNTRIES. VANCE

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Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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